

of the time children are either not fully secured or the car seats are not properly attached.

The fact is, despite parents' best efforts, car seats are hard to install. Not all 100 models of car seats fit in all 900 models of passenger cars. And even when they do, it's no simple task to put them in place. Seat belts are not designed primarily to hold child safety seats. Anyone who's wrestled with a car seat knows what I'm talking about. Thousands of frustrated parents have called our Transportation Department hotline with questions about how to use car seats properly.

Parents are not alone in their concerns. Automobile and car seat makers, consumer organizations, the medical community all have felt there was too much confusion surrounding child seat safety. In response to this problem, my administration convened a blue ribbon panel, with representatives from all these groups, to find ways to make it easier for parents to protect their children with safe, secure car seats.

Today I am pleased that we are acting on the panel's number one proposal, a universal system for attaching car safety seats. Under a Transportation Department plan, every car safety seat would have two standard buckles at its base. Every car would be equipped with stand-

ard latches in the back seat designed specifically to fasten to these buckles. There would also be universal attachments to secure the top of the safety seat to the car's interior, so car seats would be locked in from top to bottom. This plan will go out for public comment next week. If approved, the new safety system could be on the market by 1999.

A car seat can protect a child from the violence of the worst crashes. So today we are acting to solve a problem that's been around for too long. We're taking steps to make sure that your child's car seat will stay put in your car every time. With this plan, we're moving closer to the day when safe, well-attached car seats will be the rule of the road.

Together, these efforts represent a new spirit of cooperation in America, with industry and Government working with the American people to support our families as they seek to make life safer and better for our children.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:09 p.m. on February 14 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 15.

## **Statement on the Telecommunications Services Agreement** *February 15, 1997*

I am pleased to announce that American-led negotiations in Geneva have resulted today in a landmark agreement that will liberalize world trade in telecommunications services. Telecommunications services trade—including telephone, data, satellite, and cellular services—is already a \$600 billion industry. It is expected to grow to more than \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. U.S. telecommunications firms are the most competitive in the world. This agreement will open markets in nations that account for over 90 percent of the world's telecommunications trade and allow U.S. companies to compete on an equal basis. Today's agreement will bring clear benefits to American workers, businesses, and consumers alike—new jobs, new markets, and lower prices—and will spread the

benefits of a technology revolution to citizens around the world.

Just 2 months ago the United States led efforts to complete the information technology agreement, which zeroes out tariffs on a broad range of information technology goods, such as computers, telephone equipment, and semiconductors. Today's agreement opens markets for the services for which many of those information technology products are used—basic telecommunications. These are critical steps toward realization of the American vision of a global information infrastructure.

I want to thank the Vice President for his important role in launching these negotiations nearly 3 years ago. I also want to congratulate America's Trade Representative-designate, Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, for her skilled

and determined efforts. This important agreement advances our interests and opens new opportunities for growth, prosperity, and progress. I also want to thank FCC Chairman Reed

Hundt and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jeff Lang who helped bring these negotiations to their successful conclusion.

## Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Welfare Reform in New York City February 18, 1997

*The President.* I now know that I came here because after a long holiday weekend, I needed a little good preaching to wake up for the rest of the week. [Laughter]

Let me thank you, Dr. Forbes, for welcoming me here, and Dr. Washington, for giving me the chance, just before we began, to walk through the beautiful sanctuary upstairs which I have heard about and known about for many years. The legendary story of Harry Emerson Fosdick and John D. Rockefeller even made its way to me many years ago.

I want to thank Senator Moynihan and Congressman Rangel for being here, as well as Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez and Congresswoman Carol Maloney; thank you for being here. The members of the panel, thank you all. I want to especially say a word of thanks to Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who literally just got off an airplane this morning from South Africa, where she went with the Vice President, and got off one airplane and got on mine and came here. So if she nods out during the ceremony—[laughter]—we will forgive her.

Let me get right to business. I came here because I wanted to know a little about what this church is doing and because I wanted to say to the people of New York City and New York what is required of us to do together under this welfare reform law.

By way of background, in the last 4 years and before the law was passed—before the law was changed, the welfare rolls in America were reduced by almost 2.3 million. I received just yesterday an analysis by the Council of Economic Advisers—and that's a record, by the way; the welfare rolls had never gone down by that much in a 4-year period before—the Council of Economic Advisers saying to me that they thought about half of the welfare rolls reduction had come because the economy had improved.

We, after all, had 11½ million new jobs in the last 4 years, and no 4-year period had produced that many before. But about 30 percent of these jobs had materialized—or this movement had materialized because of the welfare reform efforts already going on in 43 States, people in the States making an extra effort to move people from welfare to work. And about 20 percent happened for reasons that cannot be identified. But among other things, we had a 50 percent increase in child support collections over the last 4 years, and anything of that magnitude always enables some people to move out of the welfare rolls and out of the ranks of poverty.

Now, that's what happened in the last 4 years. In the next 4 years—I won't go through all the details of it, but Secretary Shalala and my staff have provided me with an analysis which says that, in essence, the welfare roll law now says that after a certain amount of time, everybody who's able to work should be in the work force, and therefore welfare can't be for a lifetime. And then there are all kinds of rules and regulations and requirements. But the bottom line is we have to move about a million people from the welfare rolls to the work rolls in the next 4 years. That's about the same number of people we moved in the last 4 years, because the average welfare family actually has about 2½, 2.7 people in it.

Now, the problem is, in the last 4 years we had 11½ million jobs. If we can produce 11½ million jobs in the next 4 years, we'll be doing fine. But we have to do it without knowing that for sure. And how are we going to do this? That's what I want to talk about today. And more importantly, how can we not just move people for 1 month or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 months into a job but how can we help people who have been trapped in a culture of dependence and poverty to move to a culture of independence, family, and work?